

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

AMCONSUL NAHA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

INFO CINCPAC

COGARD

TREASURY

GOVGUAM

XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: OCTOBER 17 EA PRESS SUMMARY

1. CHINA

OBSERVERS REPORT HAK'S DEPARTURE TODAY (10/17) FOR PRC TO PREPARE WAY FOR FORD VISIT AT END OF NOV. WPS' MARDER SAYS WHAT PEKING WANTS MOST FROM US, ACCORDING US EXPERTS, IS LESS SOVIET-US DETENTE; BUT MEMBERS OF HAK PARTY REFLECT GENERALLY OPTIMISTIC VIEW THAT RELATIONS WITH PRC WILL CONTINUE 'ON TRACK" AND POSSIBLY EXPAND, ALTHOUGH SHORT OF ESTABLISHING FULL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS SO LONG AS CONTROVERSY CONTINUES OVER TAIWAN. BRADSHER (WSTAR 10/16) REPORTS UNCLASSIFIED

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THAT CONTRARY TO TUESDAY'S PEKING DISPATCH SUGGESTING FORD'S VISIT WOULD BE MADE LESS USEFUL BY CHOU'S INACCESSABILITY, ADMIN VIEW IS THAT MEETING TENG HSIAO-PING MIGHT BE MORE IMPORTANT NOW.

REUTER (PEKING) REPORTS TRAVELLERS TODAY SAYING LIFE IS RETURNING TO NORMAL IN HANGCHOW. PLA STILL IN EVIDENCE IN STREETS, BUT LAKESIDE RESORT APPEARS COMPARATIVELY RELAXED WITH NO SIGN OF PROTEST POSTERS.

YUGOSLAV NEWS AGENCY REPORTS FROM PEKING THAT PRC FOREIGN TRADE IS EXPECTED TO TOTAL 15 BILLION DOLS THIS YEAR, OR 1.3 BILLION DOLS MORE THAN LAST YEAR. PART OF INCREASE ATTRIBUTED TO INCREASED VOLUME, PART TO HIGHER WORLD MARKET PRICES, ACCORDING TANJUG. JAPAN WILL ACCOUNT FOR NEARLY ONE-THIRD PRC'S FOREIGN TRADE THIS YEAR, WITH 3.3 BILLION DOLS OUT OF 13.7 BILLION TOTAL VOLUME. CAPITALIST COUNTRIES ACCOUNTED FOR ABOUT THREE QUARTERS VALUE OF PRC'S TRADE LAST YEAR, WHILE TRADE WITH COMMUNIST COUNTRIES WAS 2.3 BILLION DOLS (AP, CHITRIB).

ITALIAN INDUSTRIALISTS JUST RETURNED FROM PRC SUGGEST TRADE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES CAN EXPAND GREATLY THROUGH BARTER OF PLANTS AND MACHINERY FOR PEKING'S PETROLEUM, COAL, OTHER RAW MATERIALS (FARNETI, JOC).

RADIO LHASA REPORTS PRC AUTHORITIES HAVE INCREASED ACTIVITY BY MILITIAMEN IN TIBET NEAR SENSITIVE INDIAN/NEPALESE BORDERS. NEW DELHI OBSERVERS BELIEVE CHINESE AUTHORITIES IN TIBET CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBLE ATTACK BY EXILED KHAMPA WARRIORS FROM NEPAL (REUTER NEW DELHI).

2. JAPAN

MIYAZAWA TOLD PRESS FRIDAY AMB YASUKAWA INSTRUCTED ASK US NOT EXTEND FISHING ZONE UNILATERALLY; FOLLOWS RECENT HOUSE APPROVAL 200 MILES EXTENSION (REUTER TOKYO).

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DOW CHEMICAL SPOKESMAN IN MIDLAND SAID THURSDAY FIRM INFORMED UNOFFICIALLY THAT MITI POSTPONED DECISION ON APPLICATION TO PRODUCE CAUSTIC SODA IN JAPAN WITHOUT STATING REASON. ADDED FIRM PRESSING APPLICATION, EXPECTS APPROVAL (JOC; WSJ).

CULLISON (JOC) IN TOKYO NOTES ARRIVAL OF 12-MAN KEIDANREN TEAM IN PEKING THURSDAY. HEADED BY TOSHIO DOKO. PLANS DISCUSS LONG-TERM PURCHASE OF CHINESE OIL, OTHER TRADE PROBLEMS.

TOKYO METROPOLITAN GOVT SPOKESMAN THURSDAY SAID US-MADE GOULD CATALYTIC CONVERTER MEETS RIGID AUTO EMISSION

STANDARDS TO BE ENFORCED 1978; PLANS PRESS TOYOTA, NISSAN REVEAL TEST DATA FOR OWN SIMILAR CONVERTERS (JOC, TOKYO).

MOF THURSDAY REPORTED JAPAN SUFFERED 100 MILLION DOL BOP DEFICIT IN SEPT, DUE DRASTIC INCREASE IN NET OUTFLOW OF LONG-TERM CAPITAL. SIXTH MONTHLY DEFICIT OF YEAR (CULLISON, JOC).

HIROSHIMA CARPS WIN FIRST CENTRAL LEAGUE PENNANT IN 26-YEAR HISTORY -- BARTENDERS SET UP SAKE ON HOUSE, EVEN A-BOMB PATIENTS ROAR "BANZAI" AS NURSES LEAD CHEERS IN HOSPITAL (UPI, NYDN).

3. INDOCHINA REFUGEES

REFUGEE SHIP LEAVES GUAM. NEW SVN REGIME CRITICISES US FOR ALLOWING DEPARTURE, BUT HASN'T SAID WHETHER PLANS ACCEPT REFUGEES (WSJ). REFUGEES CHEER AS LEAVE, FLY NVN FLAG FROM SHIP'S STERN. EXPECTED PASS MINDINAO WITHIN 4 DAYS. US SAYS WILL ASSIST SHIP IF EMERGENCY DEVELOPS AT SEA, BUT NOT PROVIDING ESCORT (WSTAR 10/16). SHIP SAILS WITHOUT CAPTAIN IN COMMAND, SINCE REPATRIATES DECIDED DECISION WOULD BE MADE BY MAJORITY VOTE AT SEA (UPI, NYT).

NVN BROADCAST CALLS US DECISION LET SHIP SAIL "ADVENTUROUS AND IRRESPONSIBLE ACTION." SHIP'S COURSE COULD TAKE IT UNCLASSIFIED

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INTO TYPHOON PATH. AT LAST MINUTE 51 REFUGEES RETURNED FROM US MAINLAND TO BOARD SHIP, WHILE 28 CHANGED MIND, ASKED BE SENT TO US; 1546 SAILED ON SHIP (UPI PHINQ, NYDN). TRIP EXPECTED TAKE 10 DAYS. JOURNEY BEING MADE AGAINST UNHCR (UPI, NYDN). NVN JOINS SVN IN BLASTING US FOR LETTING REFUGEES SAIL. CHAIRMAN REPATRIATES' COMMITTEE ON SHIP SAYS EVACUATION LATEST IN SERIES US WAR CRIMES AGAINST VN; CHARGE MIRRORS OFFICIAL VN POSITION TOWARD US REFUGEE PROGRAM, MIGHT HELP PREPARE WAY FOR REFUGEES' RETURN (AP NYT, SUN).

GROUP OF 344 THAI DAM (BLACK THAI) REFUGEES ARRIVES PENDLETON FROM THAILAND EN ROUTE RESETTLEMENT IN IOWA. OTHER SIMILAR-SIZED GROUP WILL FOLLOW OCT 21. THAI DAM ARE NVN MOUNTAIN PEOPLE WHO UNTIL RECENTLY LIVED IN LAOS BUT FLED TO THAILAND. MANY HAD WORKED FOR US MISSION. RESETTLEMENT REQUESTED BY RTG, WHICH ASKED OTHER NATIONS ASSIST BY TAKING IN SOME OF THOUSANDS REFUGEES WHO HAVE ENTERED FROM INDOCHINA (BURKE, LAT 10/16).

4. INDOCHINA

CLOSE AIDE SAYS SIHANOUK DOUBLE-CROSSED BY KR; PRINCE SO APPALLED BY WHAT HE SAW ON RETURN TO CAMBODIA THAT WEPT IN PALACE (REUTER HK).

5. AUSTRALIA

OPPOSITION VOTED DOWN WHITLAM BUDGET IN SENATE THURSDAY 29-26 (WSJ). PM TOLD HOUSE REJECTION WOULD LEAD TO "UTTER FINANCIAL CHAOS." OPPOSITION INSISTS WON'T PASS BUDGET UNLESS WHITLAM RESIGNS, CALLS FOR GENERAL ELECTION (UPI, NYT).

SENATE VOTE CATAPULTS NATION INTO HISTORIC CONSTITUTIONAL, POLITICAL AND POSSIBLY INDUSTRIAL CRISIS, AS 3,000 DEMONSTRATORS PROTESTED OUTSIDE PARLIAMENT. UNION MEETING REJECTED CALL FOR GENERAL STRIKE, BUT APPLAUDED LEADER WHO SAID POWERFUL UNION MOVEMENT WOULD INTERVENE (AP, SUN).

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WHITLAM, WHO VOWED IN TV SPEECH WEDNESDAY "BUSINESS OF GOVERNMENT WILL GO ON" (AP, LAT 10/16), FRIDAY ORDERED ADMIN CUT ALL BUT MOST ESSENTIAL SPENDING. ANNOUNCED INTENTION CONTINUE GOVERNING UNTIL FUNDS RUN OUT, WHICH EXPECTED IN ABOUT SIX WEEKS. GORTON CAUTIONED POSSIBILITY OF "RIOTS, STRIKES, FIGHTING IN THE STREETS" COULD NOT BE RULED OUT (REUTER CANBERRA).

SUPPLY MIN ABDUL RAHMAN EL SHAZLY ON RETURN TO CAIRO FROM AUSTRALIA SAID WEDNESDAY EGYPT AGREED BUY ONE MILLION TONS WHEAT FOR 160 MILLION DOLS IN 1976, AGREED IN PRINCIPLE BUY SAME QUANTITY NEXT TWO YEARS. AUSTRALIA SELLING WHEAT ON 12-MONTH SUPPLIER CREDIT BASIS, 9.5 PERCENT INTEREST, AT A129 DOL/TON (JOC, CAIRO).

6. TIMOR

FRETILIN SAYS REPULSED INDO ATTACK ON BORDER TOWNS THURS MORNING. ADDS ASSAULT INCLUDED MORTAR, ARTILLERY FIRE (CHITRIB). JAKARTA SAYS PRO-INDO FORCES GAINED CONTROL 2 STRATEGIC TOWNS AFTER FIERCE FIGHTING WITH FRETILIN, DENIES REPORTS INDO TROOPS TOOK PART IN FIGHTING (REUTER JAKARTA).

7. INDONESIA

PERTAMINA SETS PRICE SE SUMATRA CRUDE AT 12.80 DOLS PER BBL, HOPES FACILITATE MARKETING ALLOW PRODUCTION AT FULL CAPACITY IN AREA (JOC). HARSCH (CSM), IN ARTICLE ON INFLATION'S EBB IN WEST, NOTES NEWS INDONESIA THINKING UNDERCUTTING OPEC PRICE RISE TESTIFIES THAT

CONSERVATION MEASURES IN OIL-IMPORTERS HAVE BEGUN

AFFECT MARKET. TANNER (WSJ) REPORTS INDO CUTS SOME OIL PRICES, RAISES OTHERS. EXPECTS SURPRISE REDUCTIONS HAVE MAJOR IMPACT ON OPEC PRICING PATTERNS. INDO FIRST OF CARTEL'S 13 MEMBERS TO REDUCE PRICES FOLLOWING OPEC'S RECENT 10-PCT PRICE BOOST. PRODUCER OPINES INDO RECOGNIZING PREMIUM PRICES FOR HIGH-QUALITY CRUDE HAVE KEPT MUCH OIL OUT OF WORLD MARKET. OBSERVER BELIEVES INDO FLYING AGAINST CARTEL, WITH PRICE MOVES EXPECTED ACCELERATE

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PREMIUM-SHAVING.

8. PHILIPPINES

INTL ARCHITECTURAL FOUNDATION ORGANIZES WORLDWIDE COMPETITION FOR MODEL COMMUNITY FOR SHANTYTOWN DWELLERS IN CONNECTION WITH UN CONFERENCE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS' VANCOUVER MAY OPENING. WINNING DESIGN WILL BE BUILT IN MANILA TO HOUSE SOME SLUM RESIDENTS. CSM'S MCBRIDE VISITS DISTRICT WHERE NEW SETTLEMENT WILL BE BUILT, FINDS IT SLOPPY SLUM WHERE GOVT HAS SUPPRESSED ATTEMPTS ORGANIZE COMMUNITY. RECENTLY MARCOS HAS STOPPED EVICTIONS IN AREA FOLLOWING DEMONSTRATION. MCBRIDE NOTES PEOPLE OF AREA TO BE REDEVELOPED DO NOT SEE SELVES AS GUINEA-PIGS, PLAN FOR BETTER LIFE.

9. ASEAN

FIVE MEMBER NATIONS SIGNED DECLARATION WEDNESDAY FORMING NEW ORGANIZATION -- COUNCIL ON PETROLEUM -- WHICH WILL MEET ANNUALLY TO DEAL WITH OIL PROBLEMS, INCLUDING EMERGENCY SUPPLIES. MALIK TERMED IT "IMPORTANT AND CONCRETE STEP FORWARD" IN ASEAN'S LARGER EFFORTS TO DEVISE COMMON STRATEGY TO ATTAIN COMPREHENSIVE DEGREE SELF-SUFFICIENCY/SELF-RELIANCE IN PRODUCTION/SUPPLY FOOD AND CERTAIN BASIC RAW MATERIALS (AP, LAT 10/16).

10. DIEGO GARCIA

IN REPORT TO SENATE THURSDAY, DOS CONFIRMED US HAD ENTERED INTO SECRET 1966 AGREEMENT UNDER WHICH IT REDUCED COST OF POLARIS MISSILE TO BRITAIN IN RETURN FOR BRITISH ESTABLISHMENT DG MIL BASE (FINNEY, NYT).

11. PACIFIC ISLANDS

NORDHEIMER (NYT SPECIAL, HONOLULU) NOTES 816 BIKINI ISLANDERS HAVE FILED SUIT AGAINST USG IN FEDERAL DISTRICT COURT TO DETERMINE WHETHER SAFE RETURN TO ATOLL

HOME FROM WHICH REMOVED 29 YRS AGO TO MAKE WAY FOR
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PEACETIME NUCLEAR WEAPONS TESTS. CHARGE USG FAILED
PROTECT 75 NATIVES ALREADY RETURNED TO BIKINI.
STATES SUIT SEEKS RESOLVE RESETTLEMENT ISSUES,
REFLECTS LOSS OF CONFIDENCE USG WILL EVER ALLOW ALL
NATIVES RETURN NUCLEAR-WASTED ATOLL.

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

12. JAPAN

SUN'S SEIDEN IN TOKYO REVIEWS BACKGROUND OF HARIGAYA
MURDER CASE; LABELS IT "PECULIARLY JAPANESE TRAGEDY."
IN SOCIETY WHERE ONE RETARDED CHILD IMPAIRS CHANCE
FOR MARRIAGE OF ALL FAMILY MEMBERS, SUCCESSFUL BANKER
HIROSHI HARIGAYA LAST SPRING LOCKED 3-YR OLD RETARDED
DAUGHTER IN BEDROOM, REFUSED FEED HER UNTIL SHE DIED
EIGHT DAYS LATER. DEFENSE ATTORNEYS HOPE LIGHTEN
SENTENCE BY PORTRAYING CONFESSED MURDER AS "ACT OF MERCY."

YATES (CHITRIB 10/16) DESCRIBES JAPAN'S 12 MILLION
'CRAZY GOLFERS' WHO PLAY ON 1,000 COURSES -- MOSTLY
AT COMPANY EXPENSE, AND IN HOPE GOOD SCORES WILL
SECURE PROMOTION. NOTES GOLF COURSES OCCUPY 3 MILLION
ACRES IN LAND WHERE ONLY 15 MILLION ACRES ARABLE; BUT
ENVIRONMENTALISTS' COMPLAINTS DROWNED OUT BY POLITICIANS
WHO OWE POSITIONS WITHIN PARTIES TO PROWESS ON COURSE.

12. CHINA

WSJ'S LIPSKY, IN HK, NOTES US BANKS, LOCKED OUT OF PRC
TRADE BY FROZEN-ASSETS ISSUE, HOPEFUL HAK/FORD PEKING
TRIPS WILL LAY GROUNDWORK FOR ACCORD. ISSUE UNDOUBTEDLY
WILL BE AGAIN ON TABLE. WITH INCREASING FREQUENCY,
US BANKERS HAVE BEEN VISITING PRC WITH VARIOUS DELEGATIONS,
MAKING FRIENDLY SPEECHES, SERVING ON COMMITTEES, BUTTONHOLDIN
CHINESE BANKERS/ DIPLOMATS, PRODDING US OFFICIALS. BANK
OF AMERICA HAS ESTABLISHED VERY LIMITED CORRESPONDENT
RELATIONSHIP WITH BANK OF CHINA -- BUT THIS HAS LITTLE,
IF ANY, SIGNIFICANCE IN TERMS OF IMMEDIATE BUSINESS.

WSTAR'S YODER CITES CURRENT UNPOPULARITY OF CONFUCIUS
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IN MODERN PRC. BUT SAYS GIVEN CHOICE WHETHER TO BE
GOVERNED OUT OF CONFUCIAN ANALECTS OR MAO'S LITTLE RED
BOOK, "WHO WOULD HESITATE TO CHOOSE CONFUCIUS? THE OLD
CHINA BENEATH THE 'SCUM AND FROTH' NOW AGITATING THE

SURFACE FEELS THE SAME, I HAVE NO DOUBT" (10/16).

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